

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed March 22, 2005 has been carefully considered.

Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the specification, the Abstract has been amended to correct minor editorial problems.

No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 19, 22, 24, 26, 29, 30, 31, 33 and 35 have been amended to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention.

Support for these changes may be found in the specification, page 9, lines 1-2. The text of claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16-18, 20, 21, 23, 25, 27, 28, 32, 34, 36 and 37 is unchanged, but their meaning is changed because they depend from amended claims.

With this amendment it is respectfully submitted the claims satisfy the statutory requirements.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 1-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Homewood et al.¹ This rejection is respectfully traversed.

¹ U.S. Patent No. 6,807,628.

According to the M.P.E.P., a claim is anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), (b) and (e) only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.²

Homewood fails to teach or suggest an exception map having "one or more entries, each of the entries associated with a particular exception condition" as stated in claim 1 as amended. In Homewood, instructions are placed in an instruction cache 215 (see FIG. 2 and corresponding text). Included with each instruction is an instruction bundle, which includes a stop bit. Col. 12, lines 45-46. However, in Homewood, this stop bit is not associated with a particular exception condition. Like all the other bits in the instruction bundle, it is associated with a particular instruction or group of instructions. Unfortunately, it is not clear from the disclosure in Homewood what the stop bits are used for. The only place they are mentioned are in Col. 12, lines 45-46, where it states that "[i]nstruction bundles include a valid stop bit, i.e., four zero stop bits is illegal." It is unclear what the term valid means in this context, although from the second phrase "valid" appears to mean "non-zero". One possibility is that Homewood is stating that each instruction syllable has its own stop bit, and one must be set at all times. Nevertheless, no matter the interpretation, Homewood does not teach or suggest associating the stop bit with a particular exception condition. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Homewood fails to teach or suggest an exception map as defined by the claims.

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claim 1 as amended is now in condition for allowance.

² Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) § 2131. See also *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*,

As to independent claims 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29, 30, 31, and 35 as amended, these claims contain elements similar to that as described above with respect to claim 1 as amended, and thus Applicant respectfully maintains that these claims are also in condition for allowance for the same reasons.

As to dependent claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16-18, 20, 21, 23-25, 27, 28, 32-34, 36 and 37, the argument set forth above is equally applicable here. The base claims being allowable, the dependent claims must also be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 5/26/05



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